ANARCHO-PRIMITIVISM EXPLAINED

9 minute video explaining in 3rd grade terms what primitivist anarchism is (analysis) and answering FAQs about it.

VIDEO SCRIPT (OUTLINE)

1) intro:
Anarcho-primitivism explained in under 10 minutes, so easily a 3rd grader could understand it.

2) There are two parts to the word "anarcho-primitivism". "Anarcho-" and "primitivism". "Anarcho-" is a prefix meaning "anarchist." Anarchism is a political philosophy and movement against all forms of rulership. What is rulership? Rulership is an ongoing social relationship where one party uses the threat of force to coerce the other party, with this threat being socially legitimized. We call that social legitimization *authority.* The second part of the word "anarcho-primitivism", is "primitivism", which refers to being at a very low stage of technological development. Anarcho-primitivism refers to a political philosophy and movement which is **1)** against all forms of rulership, and **2)** with the further analysis that it's necessary to have society at a very low stage of technological development to achieve this. Specifically, a hunter-gatherer society. A hunter-gatherer society is a community that relies on hunting animals and foraging for wild plants for sustenance, rather than engaging in agriculture.

3) The very core of anarcho-primitivism is the following analysis:
Rulership is required for civilization to exist. Rulership is extremely harmful for several reasons (We'll get into those reasons later). Therefore, civilization should not exist.

But what is civilization? Civilization is a sedentary society marked by agriculture (farming) and the domestication of animals, which leads to cities.

Aside from anarcho-primitivism's specific analysis, the most important thing that separates anarcho-primitivism from other forms of anarchism, is anarcho-primitivism being explicitly against civilization, whereas historically, most other forms of anarchism tend to defend civilization somehow.

4) Why are anarcho-primitivists against rulership? For many of the same reasons other anarchists are against rulership. That rulership prevents people from achieving the highest quality of life that they could. That it sucks to be a slave. That it prevents people from being the greatest they can be. That rulership degrades both the ruler and the ruled. That it's pathetic to live your life beholden to someone else. That rulership deprives you of the will to be responsible for yourself. There are *plenty* of reasons for why an anarchist is against rulership on principle. Most importantly, what specifically makes that person an anarchist is that they are against ALL forms of rulership.

5) Explaining the tenants of anarcho-primitivist analysis:

1) Why does civilization require rulership to exist?
Cities need laws, regulations, and enforcement to keep farms producing, property lines respected, and people doing jobs they don't necessarily want to do. That kind of coordination doesn't just happen voluntarily at the scale of millions of people; it needs rulership. There are some ideologies that disagree with this, like anarcho-communism, but we can ignore that for

now and I'll make a separate video on that.

2) What is technology? What kind of technology requires rulership to exist?
To understand what technology is, we need to define what tools are first, since it's easier to understand the definition of technology by separating it from tools. Tools are something you make to accomplish a task, using items you can find walking outside. Technology, on the other hand, is similar in concept to tools but instead of using items that anybody can access outside, items are used that require complex processes (like mining, for example) to obtain. These complex processes require rulership to exist. Nobody wants to slave away in mines. They have to be coerced to do so. On the other hand, tools can be freely created by anyone. If I want to create a paintbrush out of wood and my own hair, I have the power to do so.

3) What is the anarcho-primitivist critique of symbols?

The anarcho-primitivist critique of symbols comes down to this: symbolic language breaks the wholeness of direct experience and turns the world into separate, named parts we can control.

For a vivid example, I can look at a certain stack of paper and call it a "calendar", but yet, it is more than that. I could roll it up and hit someone with it, or I can draw on it, and it turns into a "sketchbook". The words we use to define even simple objects fragments our imagination to what is really possible. We call that stack of paper a "calendar", and thus no regular person will even think of drawing on it.

Symbols do your thinking for you. Instead of experiencing reality directly, we all do so through symbols. Really, symbols do our LIVING for us.

There is more to the anarcho-primitivist critique of symbols, like how the increase in symbolic representation highly corresponds to the increase of further specialization of labor. I'll talk about this in another video if you all want that.

4) What is the anarcho-primitivist critique of time?
The anarcho-primitivist critique of time comes down to this: time used to be cyclical, and we didn't think about it much at all. Our circadian rhythm, the seasons, day and night, were how we measured going along with our day. Now, instead of time being cyclical, it is linear, and those things I mentioned prior (day and night, the seasons, and our circadian rhythm) no longer matter for how we keep track of time. If you look at a calendar right now, you see that time *moves forward* in rows. Where does it move forward to? Nowhere, just until the calendar runs out of paper. Time, instead of being cyclical, is now linear, and is marching onward infinitely to our (what feels like) our impending doom. Even analog clocks are out fashion now! In order to live in an advanced technological society like ours, we HAVE to measure time this way, which estranges us from our bodies. Instead of 3AM being sacred sleep time that nobody would even dare to interfere with, you can set an alarm for 3AM just like any other part of the day! It no longer matters if it is day or night, or what season it is, only what "time" it is.

ANARCHO-PRIMITIVISM FAQ
1) **Is anarcho-primitivism reactionary?**
To communists, the word "reactionary" means that you don't want revolution. What is revolution? Revolution is *an event* where current society is overturned to a new form of society. Historically, if you didn't want revolution, that was because you either a) wanted to keep the

current form of society or b) wanted to go back to a previous form of society, like monarchism. For communists, with this basic analysis, it ***seems*** that anarcho-primitivism is reactionary. But what this analysis forgets is that reactionaries want to maintain or go back to a previous form of ***civilization.*** The same thing applies to revolutionaries, that they want revolution to achieve a new form of ***civilization.*** It is for this reason that anarcho-primitivists reject the notion of "progress". Because "progress" means more ***civilization.*** Anarcho-primitivism is neither revolutionary nor reactionary, it is simply a specific form of anarchist analysis and practice.

2) **Is anarcho-primitivism ableist?**
Ableism is discrimination toward the disabled. The answer is no, anarcho-primitivism is not discriminatory toward the disabled. Many people think that without civilization, they would never have the accommodations they need to survive, so anarcho-primitivism implies a desire for a worse quality of life, or even death for them. What most people don't think about is how civilization CREATES disability. This is most obviously seen regarding neurodivergence. Neurodivergence is when your brain operates differently from others, on a fundamental level. It's like my mind running on linux, while most people run on windows. This is only a problem in our society, where the walls for what is considered 'normal' behavior are getting narrower and narrower, each passing year. Everywhere you go, people blast music. Everywhere you go, there are bright fluorescent lights. Everywhere you go, there are strong scents. Everywhere you go, there are loud, sudden noises. The way my mind works is not defective. Our shitty society is.

This doesn't just apply to neurodivergence, but physical disability and physical illnesses as well. Chronic inflammation from our society gives many people chronic fatigue syndrome. Modern shoes give very many people athlete's foot and bunions. Obesity comes from the contemporary Standard American Diet (SAD). Without the population density inherent to cities, epidemic outbreaks of viruses would not be a problem. If the Earth is sparsely populated again with hunter gatherers, how would viruses even find the hosts to spread itself? They wouldn't on a large scale. Lastly, many of the things we call 'mental illnesses' are coping mechanisms for how bad or stressful civilized life is, or unhealthy thought patterns shaped by this kind of society. You can imagine kings or women acting histrionic in a court or city — but you can't imagine the same for a hunter-gatherer in a small band.

Aside from how civilization creates disability, this is in addition to the fact that primitive societies did indeed take care of their disabled members.

3) **IS anarcho-primitivism transphobic?**
No. My previously uploaded video discusses this topic. The truth is that gender dysphoria is created by civilization itself through socialization and gender roles, and that even if I personally disagree with someone's choice to transition, I am still going to treat them with kindness.

4) **Are anarcho-primitivists hypocrites for using modern technology?**
No. We are all forced into this system. Even homeless people HAVE to have a smart phone now. Although, I will argue that it is hypocritical for a primitivist to use technology when it doesn't benefit their day-to-day life, like being addicted to tiktok or twitter. This is a common position, so I have immense difficulty finding active anarcho-primitivist accounts on any social media. In fact, I think I am currently the ONLY anarcho-primitivist youtuber. Insane.

5) **IS anarcho-primitivism genocidal?**

No. This objection comes from people who realize that the only system keeping billions of people on Earth alive is industrial capitalism. This is true. But it's not like there's a way for me to Thanos snap my fingers and have everybody on earth live in a primitive society. Anarcho-primitivism is ANALYSIS that yes, cavemen had it better than us, and civilization was a mistake. You obviously can't force any kind of anti-authoritarian society upon people. Watch my "WHY POLITICS HAS NO ANSWER" video for a further explanation on this.

6) **Has anarcho-primitivism ever been tried?**
Yes, humans lived in hunter-gatherer societies for 99% of human history. Civilization is a recent blip in history.

7) **Where can I learn more about anarcho-primitivism?**
Theanarchistlibrary.org! John Zerzan and Derrick Jensen are two famous authors that write about this topic. And although he's not a primitivist outright by name, I recommend checking out Ted Kaczynski as well for his critique of industrial society and his *Anti-Tech Revolution: the Why And How.*